(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या प्रावधान किए गए हैं; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त सुझावों को शामिल न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री राम कृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) से (ग) जी, हां। 31 मार्च, 99 को घोषित एग्जिम नीति में नए आने वालों को अग्रिम लाइसेंस केवल सीमा शुल्क प्राधिकारियों को सत प्रतिशत बैंक गारंटी दिए जाने पर तथा असंशोध्य पुष्ट साख-पत्र प्रस्तुत करने पर ही जारी किए जाने की अनुमति है। दूसरी बार या उसके बाद लाइसेंस केवल तभी जारी किए जाएंगे जबकि पूर्ववर्ती लाइसेंसों पर 50% निर्यात दायित्व पूरा कर दिया जाएगा।

Boosting of exports

2947. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations to adopt three pronged strategy to remove procedural hurdles and reversing the export slide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in order to boost exports, Governments propose to take any more concrete steps on the basis of various representations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A memorandum was received by the Government on 12th August, 1998 from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry containing various suggestions for reversing export slide. Some of the steps suggested in the memorandum were reduction in transaction cost, revamping of export credit scheme, extension of DEPB scheme to deemed exports, lowering of threshold limit of EPCG Scheme, ensuring power supply at competitive rates of manufacturing enterprises, overcoming Customs related complexities and optimum utilisation of port facilities.

(c) and (d) Government has taken various steps on the basis of representations received which were incorporated in the Exim Policy announced on 31st March, 1999. These steps include extension of zero duty EPCG scheme to plastic sector, textile sector and certain sub sectors of chemicals, exemption from additional customs duty under zero duty EPCG scheme for marine and software sector, rationalisation of EOU/EPZ scheme, conversion of export processing zones into free trade zones from 1st July, 99, recognition for export of services, electronic filing of advance Licensing application, introduction of Annual Advance Licensing Scheme, removal of restriction of units working in Export Processing Zones etc.

Export of Services

2948. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a great demand by Corporates in the developed world of services such as printing, updating health profiles and hospital records, maintaining of data banks of airlines and sending responses to clients;

(b) whether there is no dearth of such trained manpower in the country;

(c) whether in view of tall in merchandise export, Government propose to explore the possibility of service export; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

The Government acknowledges the potential of export of services and has recognised all the services covered under the General Agreement on Trade in Services. A separate chapter has been incorporated in the Exim Policy on the

export of services listing various facilities for export of services. These facilites includes recognition of export of services for Service Export House Status and extension of schemes such as the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme/ Export Oriented Unit Scheme/Export Processing Zone Scheme/Software technology park scheme etc.

Scrapping of DEPB Scheme

2949. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to scrap the DEPB scheme in view of number of complaints about its misuse;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the scrapping of DEPB scheme is going to affect adversely the exporters and there are demands to introduce any other similar scheme before scrapping the DEPB; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and justification of scrapping the DEPB scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to scrap the DEPB scheme at present, Remedial action regarding cases of misuse is taken regularly as and when such instances are noticed.

Obligations under WTO

2950. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether multilateral obligations under WTO. warrants certain changes in the EXIM policy;

(b) if so, the changes made in this regard;

(c) whether India propose to remove restrictions on the EPZs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Being Member of WTO, India abides by the rules and regulations of WTO. Certain changes pertaining mainly to phased removal of Quantitative Restirctions have been introduced with effect from 1.4.99 in accordance with our agreements with our trading partners & multilateral obligations under the WTO.

(c) and (d) The Government has already announced conversion of Export Processing Zones into Free Trade Zones w.e.f. 1.7.99 and is working out the modalities for such conversion.

Impact of GATT Agreement on Industries

2951. SHRI PARMAESHWAR KUMAR AGRARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whehter any comprehensive study has been made to assess the impact of GATT agreement on our major, medium and small industrial sectors;

(b) if so, what are the findings; and

(c) how Government propose to meet this threat to our industrial sector on this account?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) From time to time, studies have been commissioned by academic institutions, industry associations, different Ministries and Departments of Government, including the Ministry of Commerce, to assess the impact of GATT Agreement of 1947 on our industrial sector. The findings of the studies are varied.

(c) GATT has mainly been involved in reduction of Tariffs through repeated rounds of trade talks. India has set its bound rates of tariffs keeping in view the best interests of its exporters and its domestic industry.